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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 16

For week ending 25 April 1950

Volume III

The International Week

The USSR demanded immediate establishment of a Trieste government in conformity with the Italian Peace Treaty and prompt evacuation of Anglo-American occupation forces. However on the issue of Jerusalem, the USSR withdrew its previous support of the GA decision to internationalize. Meanwhile unconditional prohibition of the use of the A-bomb became the dominant note in the Soviet inspired Peace Partisans' drive.

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Soviet reversal on Jerusalem internationalization. By withdrawing its previous support of the General Assembly's decision to internationalize Jerusalem, the USSR has now assumed a position similar to that of the US and UK. Notwithstanding the current Soviet boycott of the UN, the fact alone that all three major world powers now oppose internationalization apparently ensures a reversal of the 1949 GA decision next fall.

The Soviet demarche burst upon the world without forewarning. Possibly the USSR was primarily motivated by a desire to recoup some part of the severe losses sustained by both the Israeli Communist Party and the extremist wing of the leftist Mapam resulting from Soviet support of a proposal which was abhorrent to Israeli nationalism. At the same time, from the Soviet standpoint, the reversal may have seemed incidentally desirable as a means of discomfiting the Vatican which strongly supports an internationalized Jerusalem.

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Libyan Council meets. Organizing itself in Tripoli, the UN Advisory Council for Libya, created by the General Assembly, has just begun its task of helping the Libyan people to form an independent government. As its first order of business, UN Commissioner Pelt has asked advice on the scope of his own duties and the constitutional development of the unified Libyan state.

It is anticipated that Pelt's broad outline of steps to be taken towards independence will be substantially approved despite differences which will undoubtedly develop in the Council. He has suggested the selection of an equal number of representatives from Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and the Fezzan to form a Preparatory Committee for a future Libyan National Assembly which would be

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responsible for determining the structure of the state. It appears likely that a loose confederation under the leadership of Emir Sayed Idris el-Senussi of Cryenaica will be favored. A Provisional Government would then be established, under this plan, by the National Assembly and could negotiate defense arrangements with the UK, US and France.

The composition of the 10-member Advisory Council, its relationship with Pelt, the actions of the British and French authorities, and the strategic factors involved may all prove to be sources of disharmony. However, as this constitutional development goes forward, there are grounds for cautious optimism that the UN may succeed in solving a complex question in which several major powers are concerned.

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Peace Partisans seek worldwide support for ban on atomic bomb. A major drive for unconditional prohibition of the atomic bomb and punishment of the first government using it has been launched following the recent World Peace Partisans' Stockholm meeting. Collection of signatures for "the Stockholm Appeal" is the "central task in the struggle for peace" according to the Cominform Journal. Coordinated efforts to promote this drive have been made by "national peace conferences" in Norway, Australia and Pakistan, by the Italian Communist Youth movement, and by the Democratic Womens International (WIDF). During its recent Helsinki meeting, the WIDF, together with the Finnish Peace Partisans, sponsored mass meetings to publicize the Appeal and the Finnish Communist press now claims signatures of most of the Finnish Cabinet.

The concentration of the Soviet press and the front organizations on this drive in support of the Stockholm atomic resolution reflects the importance which the USSR attaches to it. Soviet determination to do the utmost to arouse popular war fears in Western countries is highlighted by the resolution's demand for punishment of the government first using the bomb as a "war criminal". This demand, drafted by Communist nuclear physicists at Stockholm and accompanied by a renewed call for reduction of armaments, is intended to put the North Atlantic Powers and particularly the US on the defensive and to reinforce the fiction that the USSR is today the strongest champion of world peace. So far, however, propaganda appeals of this kind by the Peace Partisan committees have achieved little success in the Western countries. Moreover, although the latest appeal may to some extent stimulate existing war fears, it is unlikely to win substantial support among Western peoples or to conceal the essential aim of its Communist authors to disarm western governments.

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Social Commission votes to continue ICEF. The US recently lost an inning when the UN Social Commission voted 10-3 to continue International Children's Emergency Fund feeding and medical operations. Contending that the emergency for which the fund was created is over, the US favored a permanent UN body, financed through the regular UN budget, to keep children's needs under review and emphasize technical assistance. Although it is difficult to see how the ICEF can continue its present feeding and medical programs without US financial support, a Congressional bill to continue the Fund for another year stands a fairly good chance of passage. Under the circumstances, the US might reconsider its position for this year but meanwhile has reserved the right to reopen the question before the Economic and Social Council.

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